WRESTLING
THEN & NOW

Evan Ginzburg - Editor/Publisher P.O. Box 640471 Oakland Gardens Station Flushing, NY 11364

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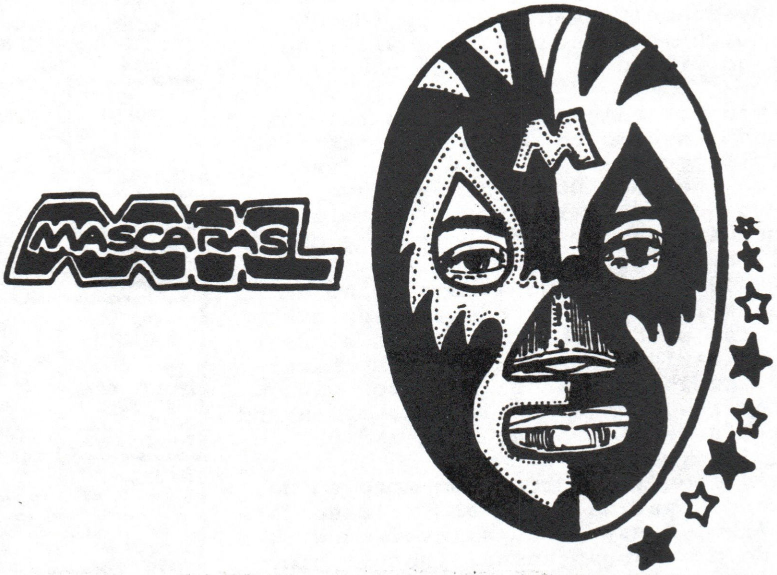
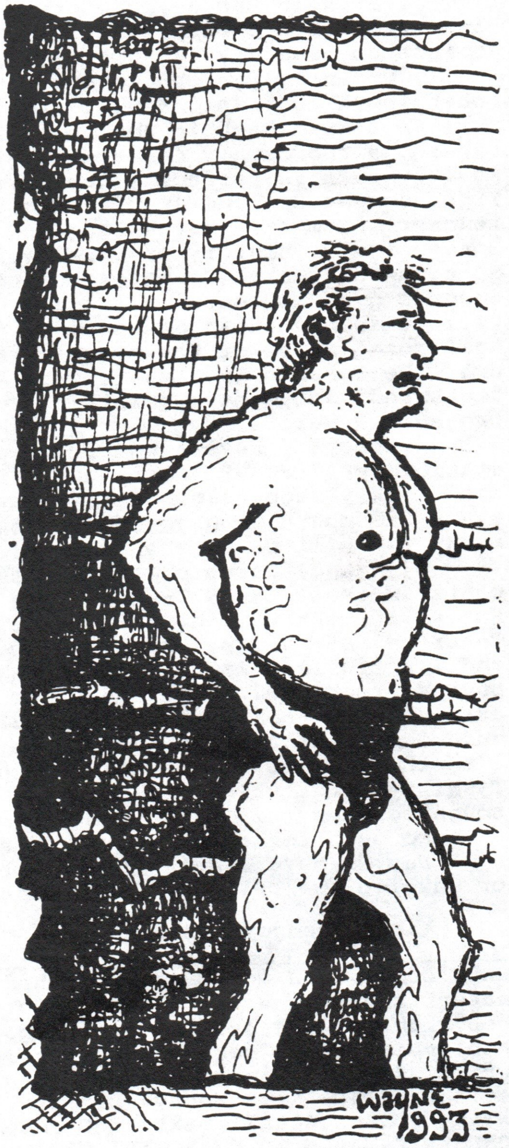
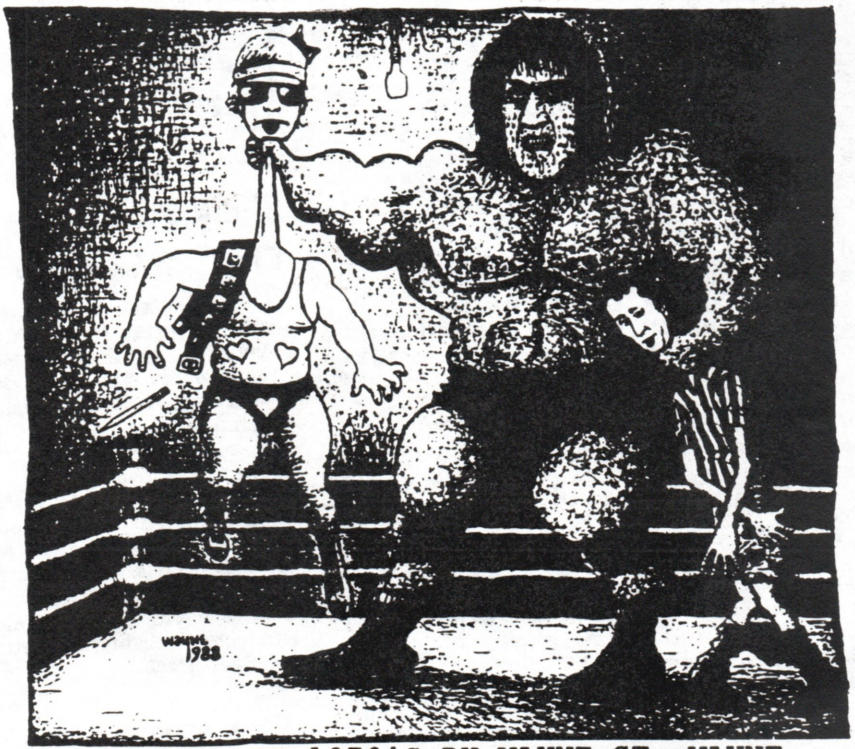
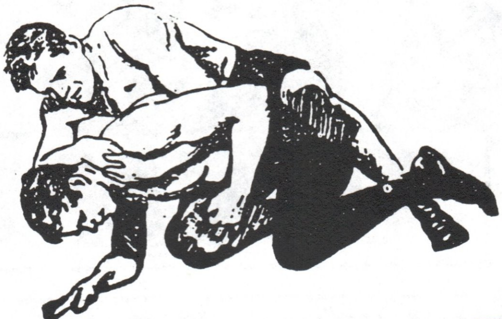


BUDDY ROGERS





CALGARY- LATE 1970'S BY WAYNE ST. WAYNE



Ginzburg's Gab

How's it going out there in TV wonderland (that's a Jimmy Snuka quote for those who care!)? We're back with another dose of rasslin' nostalgia for 'ya so sit back and enjoy...

Ginzburg's observations of the month- is it just my imagination or is Terry Funk almost a shoo-in at age 49 for wrestler of the year!? Observation #2- as much as I respect Brett Hart, isn't it just a bit egotistical the way he does his "I'm the best there is or ever was" shtick. In 22 years of watching wrestling, the guy doesn't even break my top 20 favorites list. He always turns it up a notch (or a star if you will) on the Pay Per Views, but generally I don't go wild over his house show matches. Best in WWF maybe...

Hope I'm still working by the time you get this thing. Our beloved mayor is slashing city jobs like crazy and I'm a Board of Ed administrator/ teacher so I could be on the hit list. Tell you what, if I ever get axed, this sheet's going bi-weekly (it would be the only way I'd ever have the time!). Back in the days before Wade's ego devoured Minnesota, he told me his circulation grew dramatically the more frequently the sheet came out, so it's an idea anyway. Most likely it'll never happen but who knows?

Currently putting together the WT&N '94 Annual and it's shaping up something like this: A multi-page Lou Thesz Interview by Eddie Goldman, WBAI-FM's Fred Geobold and yours truly along with mucho clips of his great career, a thoroughly researched history of early Black wrestlers by Mark S. Hewitt which is perfectly complimented by Eddie Goldman's interview with Tiger Conway Sr. and Jr., a colorful interview with wrestling historian and teacher- Slammer's Verne Langdon, Ginzburg's many memories, Richard B. Ross's inside history of Texas wrestling (if you like his work it's just a taste of what's coming here!), countless clips and more to be announced as it comes in. Please don't send $ yet as price and release date will be announced in an upcoming issue. Also, I may just be involved with a half dozen or so of the other sheets in doing a group annual that'll blow away The Torch's (remember, Mark Madden said only Wade and Dave's sheet "mattered" so we have something to prove here!), and we'll detail this project as well.

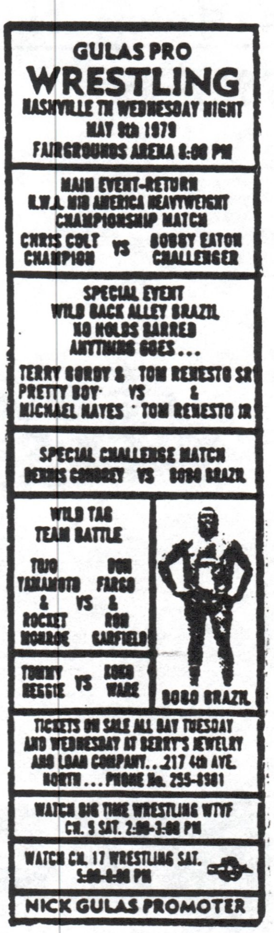
Reminder- I have a weekly wrestling segment on a 50,000 watt NYC station- WBAI-FM 99.5 Fri. nites/Sat. morns. 3-5 A.M. What we do is a 5 min. weekly segment generally between 3:30-4:00 A.M. and the last Fri. of every 2nd month we have the biggest names in wrestling come on for 45-90 minutes. We'll be on the last Fri. of Aug., Oct., and Dec. so checkitout.

WT&N back issue packages (issues 1-53) only $30/$40 O.S. about 50 cents an issue. WT&N T-Shirts are gorgeous multi-colored affairs with Bill Kunkel artwork and they're only $12/$14 O.S. Our 1992 Annual (The Great Territories- 50 Pgs.) is $7/$10 O.S. and 1993 Annual (Rarities...Oddities and Territories) is $8/$10 O.S. And here's a special offer- any reader that buys a 6 month/$7.50 gift sub for a friend will get a free 4 month extension to their sub- a value of $5. So help spread the word about our underdog sheet and receive 4 free issues and my eternal thanks! Give three 6 month gift subs at $7.50 each and it also gets you 4 free issues & a WT&N T-Shirt- total value $17. Really, with so many old fans gone it's always tough to keep this thing growing so turn a friend onto WT&N!

So much for the commercial announcements (sorry- a necessary evil!)...

Hey, I have a desktop publishing program now. If I ever have the time or develop the patience & intelligence to learn it, I could be dangerous.

Anyway, enjoy and thanks as always for the support!



GULAS PRO
WRESTLING
NASHVILLE TN WEDNESDAY NIGHT
MAY 9th 1979
FAIRGROUNDS ARENA 8:00 PM

MAIN EVENT-RETURN
N.W.A. MID AMERICA HEAVYWEIGHT
CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH
CHRIS COLT CHAMPION VS BOBBY EATON CHALLENGER

SPECIAL EVENT
WILD BACK ALLEY BRAZIL
NO HOLDS BARRED
ANYTHING GOES...
TERRY GORDY & PRETTY BOY MICHAEL HAYES VS TOM RENESTO SR & TOM RENESTO JR

SPECIAL CHALLENGE MATCH
DENNIS CONDREY VS BOBO BRAZIL

WILD TAG
TEAM BATTLE
TOJO YAMAMOTO & ROCKET MONROE VS DON FARGO & RON GARFIELD

TOMMY BEGGIE VS BOBO WARE

BOBO BRAZIL

TICKETS ON SALE ALL DAY TUESDAY
AND WEDNESDAY AT BERRY'S JEWELRY
AND LOAN COMPANY...217 4th AVE.
NORTH...PHONE No. 255-8981

WATCH BIG TIME WRESTLING WTVF
CH. 5 SAT. 2:00-3:00 PM

WATCH CH. 17 WRESTLING SAT.
5:00-6:00 PM

NICK GULAS PROMOTER

Sheik Partner Of Tom Renesto

Tom Renesto Sr., hoping to end his lengthy feud with the Prettyboy Michael Hayes-Terry Gordy duo, has picked The Sheik, NWA heavyweight champ, as a partner for this Saturday night's pro wrestling card at the Auditorium.

In a coal miner's match, with a loaded glove on top a 15-foot pole, Bobby Eaton and George Gulas meet Dennis Condry and Chris Colt.

There will be three other matches, including the return of Pago Pago.

Chattanooga, Tenn
5/12/79

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GORDY AND HAYES: BEFORE THE FREEBIRDS
BY: DAVID WILLIAMSON

It was the latter part of 1978 when a young, new, dynamic heel team stormed into promoter Nick Gulas's Chattanooga-Nashville-Birmingham area promotion. Brash and loud, they went by the names "Pretty Boy" Michael Hayes and Terry Gordy.

Hayes and Gordy were young, no doubt, but very colorful and charismatic, especially the vocal leader of the duo, "Pretty Boy" Michael Hayes. This team demolished all competition thrown against them, and in just a few weeks time promoter Gulas wisely saw their great potential and drawing power, and he put them in the main-event status. It was just a short time before they became the Mid-America tag-team champions, and no one seemed to be able to suppress this powerhouse juggernaut duo when they unleashed their pent-up energy in the ring.

Both Michael and Terry were a handful in the ring, but, just as "Pretty Boy" Hayes was the arrogant vocal leader of the team in the ring, it was big and bad Terry Gordy who dished out most of the punishment to their victims.

One particularly hot feud I remember Gordy and Hayes being in was against Tom and Tom Renesto, Jr. Tom Renesto, Sr., who was Nick Gulas's booker at that time, was retired from the ring, but had spent many years as the famed masked Assassin #2, one of the original Assassins team, along with Assassin #1, Joe Hamilton, brother of Larry "Missouri Mauler" Hamilton. Though older and out of shape, Tom Sr., was still no one to get "smart" with. As for Tom Renesto, Jr., he wasn't much in the ring, wrestling for promoter Gulas mainly because of who his dad was.

Gordy and Hayes had several run-ins with booker Tom Renesto Sr., on the air at the live Chattanooga tv tapings. I think this was in early 1979.

This one particular Saturday afternoon on Chattanooga tv, Gordy and Hayes demolished Tom Renesto Jr. and his partner. Watching from the sidelines, Tom Sr. couldn't take it any more, and he ran into the ring, and "cleaned house," sending Gordy and Hayes packing and looking for a breather.

In a great angle (I swear, it seemed like a "shoot", but I know it wasn't), Tom Senior demanded a grudge match with he and his son vs. Gordy and Hayes right then on tv. In a surprise, Tom Senior's wife came out and told Tom Sr., no way, that he (Sr.) had promised her that he was out of the ring for good. On camera, Tom Sr. and wife got into one heck of an argument and finally she left, saying Tom Sr. had to either pick her or wrestling!

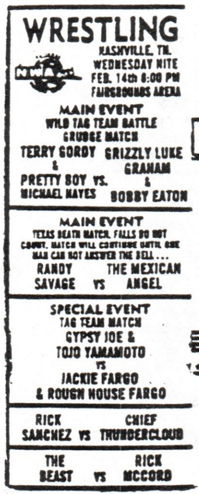
Tom Sr. said he loved his wife, but the Renesto family honor was at stake, and they entered the ring. The tv crowd and announcer Harry Thornton were really wound up by this time, and Gordy and Hayes came back out, taunted the Renestos on the mic, then charged the ring.

It was nothing but a wild brawl. Both Renesto men ended up bloody, but Tom Sr. proved he still could fight when necessary. It ended up in a no-contest and promoter Nick Gulas (smartly) changed that night's card in Chattanooga at the auditorium to another rematch between the four. As expected, they drew a packed house of around 5 1/2 thousand. A great angle that drew fantastic heat, and drew big crowds for several weeks. Gordy and Hayes were packing the arenas everywhere.

Another Saturday night I remember sitting front row ringside in Chattanooga to witness a great main-event, Gordy and Hayes vs. Andre the Giant. I remember being so surprised, because even though Mike and Terry sold all of Andre's offensive moves really well, I had never seen anyone punish the Giant in about like they did. They, especially big Terry, really knocked Andre around in this handicap match, and Andre ended up fairly bloody before it was over. Gordy and Hayes lost on a dq, when they refused to stop doubleteaming the Giant.

Finally, (much to my dismay) later on in 1979, Gordy and Hayes left promoter Gulas, and went to Memphis to work for promoter Jerry Jarrett, Gulas' rival. Unfortunately for Gordy and Hayes and Memphis area fans, promoter Jarrett didn't give them a big push, and mainly kept them in the early and mid-card bouts. What a waste of talent!

After a few months, a disgusted Gordy & Hayes left the Memphis area, and travelled down to Bill Watt's Louisiana area. That's where Gordy and Hayes along with Buddy Roberts later started "Freebird mania" and we all know the rest of the story.



WRESTLING
NASHVILLE, TN.
WEDNESDAY NITE
FEB. 14th 8:00 PM
FAIRGROUNDS ARENA

MAIN EVENT
WILD TAG TEAM BATTLE
GRUDGE MATCH
TERRY GORDY & PRETTY BOY MICHAEL HAYES vs. GRIZZLY LUKE GRAHAM & BOBBY EATON

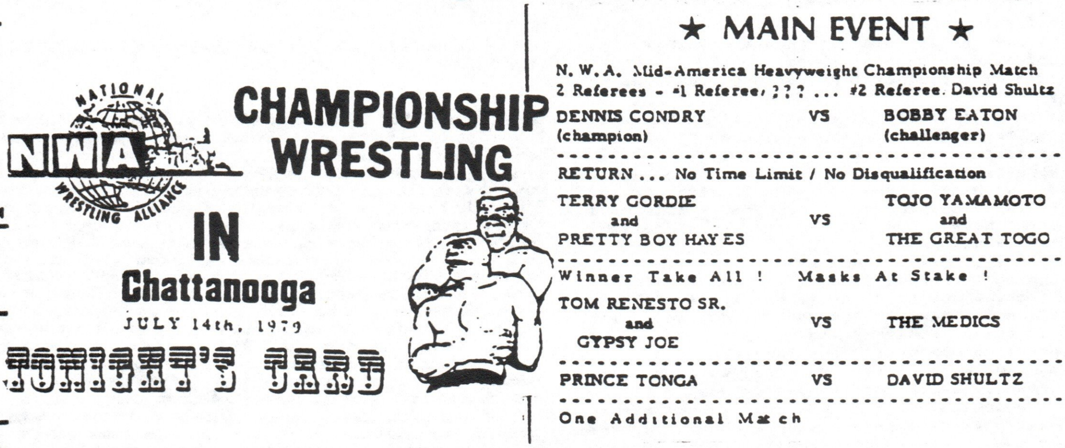
MAIN EVENT
TEXAS DEATH MATCH, FALLS DO NOT COUNT, MATCH WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ONE MAN CAN NOT ANSWER THE BELL...
RANDY SAVAGE VS THE MEXICAN ANGEL

SPECIAL EVENT
TAG TEAM MATCH
GYPSY JOE & TOJO YAMAMOTO
VS
JACKIE FARGO & ROUGH HOUSE FARGO

RICK SANCHEZ VS CHIEF THUNDERCLOUD

THE BEAST VS RICK MCCORD

1979



CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
IN
Chattanooga
JULY 14th, 1979
TONIGHT'S CARD

★ MAIN EVENT ★

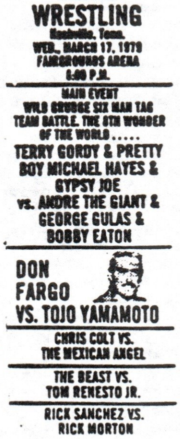
N. W. A. Mid-America Heavyweight Championship Match
2 Referees - #1 Referee, ??? ... #2 Referee. David Shultz
DENNIS CONDRY (champion) VS BOBBY EATON (challenger)

RETURN ... No Time Limit / No Disqualification
TERRY GORDIE and PRETTY BOY HAYES VS TOJO YAMAMOTO and THE GREAT TOGO

Winner Take All ! Masks At Stake !
TOM RENESTO SR. and GYPSY JOE VS THE MEDICS

PRINCE TONGA VS DAVID SHULTZ

One Additional Match



Gulas Pre:
WRESTLING
Nashville, Tenn.
WED., MARCH 17, 1979
FAIRGROUNDS ARENA
8:00 P.M.

MAIN EVENT
WILD GRUDGE SIX MAN TAG TEAM BATTLE. THE 8TH WONDER OF THE WORLD.....
TERRY GORDY & PRETTY BOY MICHAEL HAYES & GYPSY JOE vs. ANDRE THE GIANT & GEORGE GULAS & BOBBY EATON

DON FARGO VS. TOJO YAMAMOTO

CHRIS COLT VS. THE MEXICAN ANGEL

THE BEAST VS. TOM RENESTO JR.

RICK SANCHEZ VS. RICK MORTON

INTERVIEW WITH ALLEN IRON EAGLE

By: Ms Billie Jessee

Q: What is your ring name?

A: Allen Iron Eagle.

Q: Where were you born?

A: I was born in Miami, Florida.

Q: When is your birthday?

A: July 2

Q: How did you get your start in wrestling?

A: A good friend of mine, Lou Perez and a gentleman by the name of Ron Slinker approached me and inquired about my interest in wrestling and since I had grown up watching these guys wrestle and was an athlete, myself, I was flattered. Then when I was at a gym in Tampa called The Body Shop, I ran into Ron Slinker and he asked me again if I was interested in training and again I sort of put it on the back burner because I was attending school, at the time. And them I finally got up enough courage and went on down there, fully expecting the worst, and that's how it all began.

Q: What kind of amateur wrestling background do you have?

A: Well, I wrestled one year in high school at Thomas Jefferson High School, which helped form a healthy respect for the sport. I didn't fair quite as well because I was 225 lbs and that was 1 lb over the heavyweight limit.

Q: Who were you trained by?

A: I was trained by Steve Keirn but Mike Graham, Ron Slinker, Pat Tanaka all helped me in my training and Mike Graham was my first tag team partner.

Q: Who has been the strongest influence on you in your career?

A: I would have to say quite a few guys. Guys like Junkyard Dog, Flying Brian Pillman, Tom Zenk. Steve Keirn and Ron Slinker also had big influence on me and were instrumental on my getting called up to WCW.

Q: What wrestlers did you admire while growing up?

A: Ric Flair, Dusty Rhodes, Steve Keirn, Barry Windham and others.

Q: Did you pattern your style of wrestling after anyone?

A: Some of the things that I got I got from wrestlers like Wahoo McDaniels, Ric Flair, Ricky Steamboat. I like to take a little bit of the best from different wrestlers.

Q: What is your strongest point, as a wrestler?

A: My speed and my athletic ability.

Q: How long have you been wrestling?

A: Only about 2 years.

Q: Have you wrestled overseas?

A: Well, other than across the US, I have wrestled in the Caribbean, the Bahamas and Canada. Actually, we're trying to work up a Japan deal this summer so we'll just have to see.

Q: Who has been your toughest opponent?

A: Ric Flair is right up there. He's a real ring general. There's not a trick in the book that he doesn't know. His expertise is unmatched in the ring. Sid Vicious is an awesome physical specimen, Arn Anderson is in the Ric Flair category because he's a superb tactition. He's always thinking and is one of the best in the business. Bobby Eaton is a real tough competitor who I don't think gets enough credit.

Q: Do you think that wrestling will ever come to the point of having only one world champion?

A: No, I think the two main organizations here in the US are run by very strong men and for whatever reason, I don't think they will ever consolidate. My heart will always be with the WCW because I was employed there but also because of the style of wrestling..there's more wrestling. The WWF is fantastic and I have a great respect for the competitors there but it's much more pageantry than the WCW. I think the WCW is more hard-core wrestling.

Q: Do you have a workout schedule?

A: Yes, I sure do. I train 3 days on and 1 day off, with chest and arms one day followed by legs, shoulders and back, the next day. Right now I'm also running 4 days a week, which adds up to about 10 miles a week.

Q: What is your height and weight?

A: Right now, I'm 6'3, 240 lbs.

Q: How old are you?

A: 20

Q: Do you remember your first pro match?

A: <Big laugh>..ha..ha..my first pro match was against the Coconut Kid in Florida..a tv taping. I won.

Q: How do you feel about the independent promotions compared to the major leagues?

A: I think the independent promotions are fantastic because it gives you a more "grass roots" approach to the sport. I feel there's a need for more small independent groups and they provide a more viable means of entertainment for the people who can't afford the high prices of the tickets to the larger promotions. The independent shows are a lot more informal and the fans have a much better chance of getting to meet and know the wrestlers.

Q: What has been your most embarrassing moment?

A: <Uncontrollable laughing>......one time I went off the top to do a cross-body block, I couldn't quite hit it so I came back down off the ropes, gave my opponent a ddt and went back up and tried it again. I hit it that time.

Q: What has been your greatest moment in your career?

A: Winning the tag team championship with Lou Perez would have to be the greatest moment. Other great moments would be the first time I was called up to the WCW and it was a win over Pat Rose on national television, also a chance to meet and compete against some of my idols, wrestling Arn Anderson on tv for the TV title. There have been so many incredible moments it's really hard to pinpoint only one.

Q: Have you wrestled tag team, as well as single matches?

A: Yes, my tag team partner right now is Lou Perez and we currently hold the Fl tag team championships. We are running Thursdays and Saturdays at the Sportatorium and is doing quite well, actually.

Q: What promotions have you worked for?

A: Well, I'm with the ICWA, which I am with now, Championship Wrestling from Florida and the WCW.

Q: Have you had any serious injuries during your career?

A: Yes, I've had a dislocated shoulder with extensive damage.

Q: Tell us something about your educational background?

A: I received my Bachelors Degree in sociology from the Univ of South Fl and my Masters Degree from a university in Ft. Lauderdale, in education. I love kids and have also done some coaching.

Q: What does it take to be a winner?

A: I think it takes an open mind, someone who is confident in himself and his ability.

Q: What is your finishing move?

A: Right now I'm using the cross-body off the top and the indian leg-lock.

Q: Are there any holds or moves that you think should be barred from the sport?

A: No,

Q: In your opinion, who is the top wrestler today?

A: I would have to say Ric Flair. I have wrestled him and know him on a personal level. You know, some wrestlers may be faster, stronger, etc, but the thing that jumps out at me about Ric is World titles in the NWA/WCW and in the WWF. That speaks for itself.

Q: What are your views on cable tv and ppv's? Have they helped or hurt the sport?

A: Well, I think it's good for wrestling because it generates an interest for wrestling but when they have too many ppv's, they over saturates the market. They should only have it once or twice a year and it would make it that much more special.

Q: Do you think the promoters should have random steroid/drug testing?

A: Personally, I wouldn't mind random testing in the least, as I do not partake in any steroids or drugs. But as far as infringing on a persons constitutional rights, that's another question but I think there's a need for some type of regulation. We are professional athletes, under the glare of the spotlight, demanding a considerable amount of money and that forces much of the attention on us. But we should also realize that this is a problem that is very prevalent in all of society.

Q: What are your hobbies and interests, outside of wrestling?

A: I love to go shopping, go to the beach.

Q: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

A: No, I'm an adopted only child.

Q: Do you have any relatives who are involved in wrestling?

A: No, I don't.

Q: Thank you for the interview and good luck. Is there anything you would like to add, before we close?

A: No, except to say that it's been my pleasure speaking with you. Anytime.

Paul Michael Lano, Family and Hospital Dentistry
Free Full Dentistry for all Workers & Their Families Since 1982
Wrestling Photojournalism Since 1966
Cauliflower Alley Club Executive Board Member
68 Sable Pointe
Alameda, CA 94502

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE; WRESTLING'S MOST EMOTIONAL CONVENTION

We finally have KPLR TV and Kevin McCarthy's 3 camera shoot of the Sam Muchnick Tribute Convention from May 7-9, 1993; professionally produced. All proceeds are tax deductible and benefit the Cauliflower Alley Club and include a 4 hour tribute to black wrestling legends, Bruiser Brody and Pat O'Connor's families, a Paul Boesch tribute, a tribute to woman wrestlers and the great announcers(awards to Body Pierce and Gordon Solie);Killer Kowalski, Jimmy Snuka, Pepper Martin, Ernie Ladd become emotional when discussing racism in wrestling; and of course our all-legends tribute to Sam, close-circuited to his hospital bed while he was back to us on the mike thanking everyone in the building. From Toots Mondt's family to Joe Tangero to MC's Lou Thesz and Red Bastien to Bob Backlund, Ted Debiase, Mike Rotunda, SABU, the Mongolian Mauler, Blackjack Lanza, Steve Keirn, Bob Roop, Ox Baker, Tiger Conway Jr and Sr, Pepper Gomez, Kangaroo Al Costello, Kimala, Bob Orton, Saphire, Irish Mickey Doyle, the New Kangaroos, Rip Hawk, wrestlers representing over 37 active independent promotions and so many more. Billed by many as the greatest wrestling convention ever(Evan Ginzberg, Shun Yamaguchi, Linda Roufa, Sheldon Goldberg, Ed Goldman, Bob Barnett, Ron Dobratz, and co-chaired by SMW's Harry White!), it did have a fantastic diversity of talent and tears, and a hardcore attendence second to none. Al Costello sings opera, Lanny Poffo and Killer Kowalski recite poems on their love of wrestling, and Ernie Ladd says that his wrestling career meant much more to him than his football career, Sabu and Lou Thesz together on camera, and unforgettable sights of today and yesterday's legends. This will become a cherished tape.

Tapes are $25, with a SASE envelope please to the address above.

UP AGAINST THE WALL!!!
by Eddie Goldman

THE GRAYING OF THE NEWSLETTERS

Once upon a time the wrestling newsletters were bundles of joy. They took wrestling and themselves seriously enough to inform us of what was really going on, but not too seriously to obscure the visceral thrill we would get from, say, a well-executed German suplex, or from responding to the trademark cries of a Ric Flair, Stan Hansen, Sabu, or George "The Animal" Steele. Yet now, for the most part, the magic seems gone in the largest newsletters. Careerist bragging about being "trade journals", refusal to admit mistakes, petty in-fighting, and silly self-awarded honorifics now dampen that initial rebel spirit that inspired the sheet editors to break through the walls of kayfabe. It is often obvious many editors know far more than they are willing to share with us. It seems as if they fear alienating those that at once they are dependent upon for information, the promoters themselves, and yet are supposed to be the subjects of independent inquiry. Thus, while many newsletters arose independently from the business, and were viewed with hostility by the owners and others, now the relationship has changed. They have become part of the business, albeit an unofficial and unique part. Some editors have graduated from being professional fans to being the nucleus of wrestling's yuppie literati class. Like the elite of the pigs in George Orwell's Animal Farm, they have begun to walk on their hind legs like the old ruling class they had previously rebelled against.

Many revolutions devour their young, and I guess the wrestling newsletter revolution is no exception. Now we get the introduction of the hallowed term "pro wrestling media". Dave Meltzer in the April 4, 1994 Observer, editorializing against unnamed wrestling editors who refuse to cover IWC/AAA, said, "I'm not sure what wrestling media constitutes." After mentioning the kayfabe mags, he asks, "Are wrestling newsletters media? A few are for sure, but how many really are?" Dave never tells us, although by implication his certainly would fit his own unstated definition. The fact is you don't need a license in this country to publish a wrestling newsletter. In fact, we all already have one. It is called the First Amendment. We also do not need approval or accrediting from some elite journalist society, such as exist in many countries. In fact, the growth of technology such as desktop publishing, cheap photocopying, fax machines, computer bulletin boards, and all the video, voice, and data components that one day will merge into what is so mysteriously called the "information superhighway", has made it easier for those other than the wealthy to publish. Years ago the writer A.J. Liebling quipped that "Freedom of the press belongs to those who own one." Well, now the dissemination of information is less than ever censored by the lack of money. Indeed, the grass roots explosion for Perot in 1992 forced Clinton to focus not just on traditional TV networks and press conferences, but on use of this "new media".

Perhaps the greatest example of how the Observer has lost its edge is the discontinuing of the Observer yearbooks. These bulky volumes engaged an ensemble of writers whose knowledge, enthusiasm, and humor had been unleashed when given a chance by wrestling's new media. Looking back on the yearbooks we see many names who later started newsletters or became writers themselves for other ones. While newsletters and fanzines predated the Observer, Meltzer's was the first successful one to attempt legitimate reporting and analysis. In that sense the other newsletters are Meltzer's children. But now they are out on their own, surely remembered but little mentioned in the pages of the Observer. That is the point about the ending of the yearbooks. While there may have been good and understandable reason for ending this particular format, it signified a more formal break by Meltzer with sheet writers in general.

The wrestling media has never been allowed any kind of normal existence. The nature of the business dictated that. It is the only sport where every aspect of information relating to it was strictly controlled by the promoters. They didn't want you to know the results of the card from the next town, or even that there was a card in the next town. The fan club bulletins were the predecessors of today's newsletters, but they didn't break kayfabe. But people have a burning desire to attempt to control each and every aspect of their lives. The growth of newsletters shows that those around wrestling are no exception. We are trying to break down the artificial barriers between participant and spectator, performer and fan. We complain each week and each month about what happened and say just what we thought should have happened. And if one or another newsletter ceases to be a vehicle for our yearnings and criticisms, we will go on to create and support other ones. That is the interactive nature of this new media.

Now the term "trade publication" has been learned by some, most vociferously Wade Keller. A trade publication is not something a newsletter editor should be proud to put out. It is an apologist for the industry as a whole, not a watchdog. Sure, trades take jabs here and there, but they are as objective as paid lobbyists. While the trade wannabee sheets aren't dependent on advertising revenue, and thus kept on a leash that way, they have become dependent on the promoters for information they sell to the fans, the largest group of subscribers still, and to others in the business.

The best example last year of how this relationship tamed an editor is Wade Keller's blowing hot and cold on the racist brawl in Wise VA at the December 10, 1993 Smoky Mountain show. First he features this as the sole cover story continuing onto the back page. Later he receives a letter from Jim Cornette slamming Keller for not only what he reported, but for giving it so much attention at all. So what does Wade do? His 1993 annual ranks this story only as number 46 of the year, after such history-making events as "Doink gimmick works, then his babyface turn flops"(#37), "Vince McMahon turns heel in Memphis angle"(#24), and even "WCW mini-movies embarass company"(#14). When Black people and their friends are attacked and vilified by wrestlers, that is of little consequence. Further, sfter pushing this story Keller did no follow-up. He had no further communication with those he quoted from Wise VA. He didn't even have the courtesy to send to them Cornette's letter and ask for a reply. Cornette the promoter waved his hand and Keller jumped. When I followed this story up for "Canvas Cavity", WBAI radio, and "Outside Interference" newletter, the Clinch Valley College newspaper, where the brawl occurred, ran a two-part feature on our follow-up and answering Cornette's letter. Needless to say, Keller didn't return my phone calls to him to discuss this story. And remember, the original claim to fame of the newsletters was that they printed the truth and held the promoters accountable! (See Mike Tenay's "The Evolution of Newsletters" in the Wrestling Observer 1990 Yearbook for an interesting discussion of this.)

Nor are the Observer and Torch really trades. Trades don't have mainly fans as subscribers. The sheets are closer, if anything, to "Rolling Stone" than "Daily Variety". They are highly specialized periodicals that are almost a hybrid between consumer and trade publications, but nonetheless fall on the other side of the line. They are the closest thing wrestling has to trade publications, but again I wouldn't brag about that.

THE NEXT STEP

So if the biggie newsletters have lost their edge, they still have importance as storehouses of information. Everything goes through stages of life from birth to death, and these sheets are still going strong. But in the main, whatever contributions they will still make, little new ground will be broken. The next step is left to others. The walls between writers and wrestlers call out to be broken down. It is the wrestlers who both are in the best position to provide inside information, and are most vulnerable for voicing dissenting opinions and criticism, or even supplying information at all. If the editors and writers are not dependent on any of the promoters, honest or dishonest, sleazy or not, then they can voice the interests of the wrestlers and the fans. There are also some independent and retired wrestlers who could contribute as well. If properly implemented the result no doubt would be the beginning of a new stage in the development of the wrestling media.

Pro wrestling legend passes

By ALLEN SEIFERT
News-Press Staff Writer

It was an era when Gust Karras owned Friday night.

His wrestling matches at rickety old St. Joseph Auditorium were such fixtures that other events — from basketball games to bingo nights — were scheduled around them.

Wrestling fans came from everywhere to jam that old arena to the rafters. A match between Sonny Myers and Lou Thesz or Ronnie Etchison and Orville Brown, or a tag team showdown between the hated Dusek Brothers and Myers and Etchison were major sporting events.

Ronnie Etchison, one of the cornerstones in that old Karras wrestling empire, died last week at the age of 73.

Karras was from the era when men like the Zybysko brothers, Stanislaus and Wladek, from Andrew County, dominated his sport. A match might last for hours. Before becoming a promoter, Karras made his money wrestling all comers on the carny circuit.

Once he settled in St. Joseph, Karras not only began promoting wrestling, but teaching those old carnival skills to people like Etchison and Myers and Larry and Joe Hamilton. St. Joseph became, because of these competitors, known as the wrestling capital of the nation if not the world.

St. Joseph became a wrestling mecca. Not only did Etchison and Sonny Myers and Larry and the Hamiltons call it home, but so did Thor Hagen and Cowboy Bob Ellis and Bob Brown and Rufus R. Jones and the Mongolian Stomper and Bob Geigel and the midget Lord Littlebrook. The latter had his own gym, where he developed and promoted midget wrestlers like Little Tokyo among others.

These were not men with masks and painted faces. These were not men who strutted like roosters spewing threats into a microphone. There was still a thread of authenticity running through it. Fans loved it, and Karras' flair for setting up matches kept them coming back time and again.

Ronnie Etchison began his professional career in 1939 after training under Karras, and immediately became a fan favorite. It was a career which took him to every state in the Union, as well as Canada, Japan and Australia — from Madison Square Garden to Candlestick Park.

Dependent upon Karras for bookings, Etchison took the world championship belt from Orville Brown one winter night at the old Auditorium in 1947. Before his career officially came to an end, he had met and defeated virtually every heavyweight wrestler then active.

That list of victims would read like a Who's Who of matdom, from Orville Brown to Bob Brown, Harley Race to Joe Dusek, Antonio Rocca to Vern Gagne. To list the titles he held or shared would fill an entire chapter of a very thick book.

Included among his opponents was Joe Louis, the vaunted Brown Bomber, who went three rounds to a draw with Etchison with more than 4,000 fans packed into the old auditorium.

Etchison made two holds famous during his long career — the Giant Swing, in which he took a groggy opponent by the heels and swung him in a circle, and the Missouri Stump Puller, an off-beat leg lock he "adapted" from the overall-clad Haystack Calhoun.

During his outstanding career, Etchison was never too busy to help a younger wrestler learn the tricks of the trade. In a tiny, sweat-soaked gym under the auspices of the omnipresent Karras, Etchison helped develop latter-day mat stars like Ed Wiskoski and Mike George and the Junkyard Dog and many more.

He, along with the others, put St. Joseph on the wrestling map. No matter where he competed he always insisted that his correct hometown be listed. Etchison was as proud of St. Joseph as he was of the successes he achieved in a tough, tough business.

Today's pro wrestlers are a pampered lot in a field where showmanship beats a good headlock. St. Joseph has lost a true champion who proved his mettle time and again.

Ronnie L. Etchison Sr.

Ronnie L. Etchison Sr., 73, St. Joseph, died Friday, March 4, 1994, at a local health-care center.

Mr. Etchison was born at Savannah, Mo., and lived most of his life in St. Joseph.

He was a well-known professional wrestler, beginning his career in 1939. Titles awarded to him includde Canadian and World Tag Team, Central and Southern States Belt, Pacific Coast and North American Crowns, and state championships from Montana, Kansas and Missouri.

He had held the U.S. Championship and had captured it 10 different times. When the U.S. Championship Belt was retired, the National Wrestling Association presented it to Mr. Etchison.

He reigned as World Champion in 1947. He retired from his wrestling career in 1980.

During his career, he had a six-bout exhibition boxing match with Joe Louis, which ended in a draw.

Mr. Etchison was a veteran of World War II, serving as a corporal in the Army with the 6th Armored Division, 86th Cavalry, Troop C.

He was a member of South Park United Methodist Church.

He married Almedia M. Dolton. She survives of the home

Additional survivors: a son, Ronnie Jr. of St. Joseph; and four grandchildren.

Graveside service and burial: 11 a.m. Monday, Memorial Park Cemetery, St. Joseph, with a flag presentation ceremony under the auspices of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 1668. Arrangements: Heaton-Bowman-Smith & Sidenfaden Chapel, St. Joseph.

St. Joseph (Mo.) News-Press TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1994

Chris Taylor Dead at 29

Chris Taylor, 29-year-old former NCAA heavyweight wrestling champion and 1972 Olympic bronze medalist, died Saturday night at his home in Story City, Ia., "of natural causes." Once describing himself as "big for my age, real big," the 400-pound Taylor first became ill in 1975 when he collapsed in the dressing room before a professional match in Davenport, Ia. He was hospitalized for a month and at one point doctors said he was near death. He suffered from phlebitis and high blood pressure. In the '72 Olympics, he was involved in a one-point decision with three-time gold medalist Alexandr Medved of the Soviet Union. The decision was so controversial that the referee was banned for the duration of the Games. Taylor later said he was not all that disappointed. "Making the Olympic team wasn't that big a deal to me. For me, the big deal was making the team at Iowa State, he said."

7/2/79

It is with deep regret that since our last reunion, we report the passing away of the following fine individuals and ex-wrestlers: Soldat Gorky, Abe Yourist, Jack O'Riely, Ripper Collins, Corsica Jean-Louis Roy, Sr., Wilbur Snyder, Dick Affils, Mr. Moto, Duke Keomuka, Tosh Togo, Spider Galento. Thier contributions to the sport and the entertainment of fans the world over will live on in our memories.

ETCHISON MATERIALS
SUBMITTED BY:

DIANE DEVINE

REMEMBERING THE ORIGINAL SHEIK
BY: RICHIE OLANDER

The Sheik was born Edward Farhat about 70 years ago in Lebanon. At age 10 his family moved to the Detroit area. In 1950 The Sheik began what is one of the most illustrious and longest careers in mat history. That year, then Detroit promoter Mickey Doyle gave Sheik his ring persona. Eddie came in an era when TV wrestling was on more than it is now! He wrestled on TV and house shows for just about every territory.

Sheik really hit his stride in 1960 when he became one of the most hated wrestlers of all-time. His "wildman" anything goes style had fans running for their lives if he just walked toward them. In the early 60's he used his wife Joyce as his "Harem valet". After Sheik "prayed" to Allah on his "prayer rug" he would yell in Arabic at Princess Salina. He would also make her kiss his curled boots and gently give her a smack to the head! This infuriated the fans.

When Joyce became pregnant, Sheik had a dilemma. Although he never spoke English on interviews (or in public) he needed someone who could draw the TV audience's'' wrath. In 1967 The Sheik and Abdullah Farouk (as Sheik's manager) began a notorious partnership. Abdullah was in reality the late Ernie Roth. Ernie was a TV wrestling announcer in Ohio during the 50's. He turned manager in the late 50's and managed such stars as The Stevens Bros., Barend & Maurice and Fritz Von Erich under such names as Mr. Kleen (with shaven head) and J. Wellington Radcliff (30 years before the Million Dollar Man angle). As Abdullah Farouk he donned an Arabian Fez, sunglasses and outrageous multi-color outfits. His interviews were among the best of all-time. With the hatred of Sheik combined by the arrogance of Abdullah they sold out arenas and caused full-scale riots everywhere they appeared. In fact, to this day, Sheik is still officially banned from wrestling by the NYS Athletic Commission for a riot caused during his last MSG appearance against the late Haystack Calhoun in 1970! Sheik's feuds with Fred Blassie (Los Angeles), Bobo Brazil (Detroit- Sheik bought the Michigan-Ohio territory in the mid-60's and ran it until 1982), Johnny Barend (Hawaii), Fritz Von Erich (Texas) and Bruno Sammartino (WWWF) will be forever remembered by anyone who saw them. And these are just a few! In 1971, Ernie Roth came into the WWWF for a long run as "The Grand Wizard" until his untimely death in 1983. Just a sidenote thought- I think if Ernie had lived a year later he would have fit right into Junior McMahon's expansion. Ernie continued to manage Sheik for a few years in Detroit and Toronto while being the Wiz on the East Coast.

The Sheik was a revolutionary in many ways- he was among the first to use a female valet and to juice. He was the first to use the fireball (later copied by Abdullah the Butcher, Eddie Gilbert, Jerry Lawler and others). He also was the first to bring in a live snake to the ring. Eddie, certainly not the first to make a wrestling movie, did make what many consider to be by far the best in the full length feature, "I Like To Hurt People." Unfortunately, due to some legal problems it never made it to the silver screen. It was, however, released on home video.

Wrestler, promoter, movie maker, the Sheik has done it all. Amazingly, he continues to still wrestle now and then in Japan for Onita's FMW and an occasional independent card here and there. Age being an obvious factor, Eddie's matches today are short, but there is still plenty of action, blood and fire! Long live the noble Sheik!

Sheik, Firpo Are Bad Boys

The Sheik and Pamparo Firpo wre both disqualified for fighting outside of the ring in a U.S. heavyweight title match main event of the Saturday night wrestling card at Cobo Arena, before a crowd of 9,870.

In other matches:

(Eight-man tag team match) Billy Lyons — Bobo Brazil — Johnny Valentine and Igor drew with Kurt Von-Hess, Karl VonShotz, Ben Justice and Killer Brooks; Tony Marino def. Frankie Laine; Abdula the Butcher def. the Magnificent Zulu; Tiger Jeet Singh def. Rulet Woods; The Psycho def. Gypsy Joe; Ramona Isabelle def. Marva Scott; Raymon and Jacque Rougeau def. Jerry Graham and Porky the Pig; Eric the Red def. Bobby Blaine; Lou Klein def. Ali Baba; and Dan Miller drew with Hans Schmidt.

12/29/73

Special thanks to: Vic Stanley, Mike Loew, Beth Schultz & Jay Arbetman for showing me around Chicago! These are great folks!!!-E.G.

Dr. Michael Lano interviews Johnny Valentine in preparance for their book on Johnny's life called "RIB." Interview at Texas ShootOut Get Together Mike did program for

ML: Johnny, I think it's important that fans give back a little to you since you had no medical, no insurance, and no retirement.
JV: Well, that's what I hope your book will do. When the plane was chartered by Jim Crockett Jr., they kind of had us book ourselves on it to eliminate any potential blame on them should something happen. It did, and it'll all be in the book but basically the Crockett's looked the other way and did nothing to help me after I was paralyzed in the plane crash. No insurance, no money, no health or medical insurance, and I'd planned on retiring in the Carolinas. I really loved it once I got there, and I said this is where I plan to stop-and I had a helluva following there, some great times, great matches.
ML: You and wife Sharon were trying your best to come last May to our St. Louis Convention... JV: We really did. Sharon was suffering from Shingles, a very painful thing and I need her to help me get around. Sam Muchnick was a fantastic promoter and human being. He loved and treated the business great, always. And I think most of my best matches were there- they really promoted them no frills and as athletic as they came. Gene Kiniski, the Funks, Briscos, and so many more. I had great matches there, and always put out extra. I enjoyed Houston and Paul Boesch too- so you held tributes for two of the top guys ever-Sam and Paul. And I had lots of great matches with so many nice people. You know I was real fond of Argentina Rocca... I was kind to him when he first came to this country, and helped get him to New York and we got the best out of each other. Others were jealous or just didn't like all the attention he got, but he and I were good friends. Buddy Rogers was my oldest and dearest friend.(Lano note: Buddy said on my tv show numerous times he always wanted to do a book based on the ribs he encouraged Valentine to do, working title of which was "Budro and the Boob" which was their names for each other. "Rib" will be dedicated to Buddy, and carry out his dream)) But I had a lot of friends that didn't turn out to be friends. After the accident, many just forget you. I hope the fans know I always put 110% out, and always put my body on the line in giving the best I had. This book will talk about not just the ribs that everyone wants to hear and read about first-hand, but about my thoughts on my career, various promoters and other wrestlers, and the times. I always tried to build up any territory I was working in, teach the younger guys the craft to pass it on- so many now don't do that and look at the shape the business is in. Some of these guys can't work a lick.
ML: So many have heard those classic ribs and pranks 5th hand, it's time they heard it from the master. And it's for a good cause. Like my Rogers tape, we'll have fans, anyone send money directly to a p.o. box for you, and then you and Sharon tell me where to send the book. I pay all the costs, and we hope to raise some medical expense and retirement money for one of the greats of all time. I'm going to throw some names out there for your immediate reactions. Cal Eaton, Charlie Moto and Jules Strongbow...
JV: They ran Southern California and I was there in '56 when Buddy called me out there. I didn't know until I got there, then it was kind of a rib or surprise he billed me as "Cowboy Rocky" Valentine. I didn't even know I had to wear cowboy gimix, but I was surprised the gimmick worked. We had lots of fun then with Kiniski and Blears as tag champs, Gomez, a lot of talent in L.A. back then. Later in '74 when Cal's stepson Mike Lebell called me in, he lied about certain details and payday. I had done one KCOP tv promoting a match with my old pal John Tolos, then went to New Japan to work Inoki and return in 10 days for the main event. When I got back, I called Lebell, he changed everything and lied, and I said forget this, I skipped the main and caught the next plane for Charlotte, where I debuted in what many say was history. Lebell had to scramble and get Gorilla Monsoon, but he was cutting my pay and all, and you have to say no when someone's ripping you off. ML: Inoki. JV: I helped, along with others, Inoki get

started, and out of Baba's shadow in forming New Japan. Many of us working Martinez and Buffalo like Ladd, Powers, Von Hess and more came on several New Japan tours. Inoki and I had some great matches, and got along well. ML: Pedro Martinez- I remember the NWF for a lot of innovative things like the first outdoor Ohio show in '73 that was the first Supercard long before Wrestlemania or Starrcade. I was in the main against Powers, Abby against Ladd, a women's, tag and midget tournement- so much in nearly 5 hours. The names I remember fondly are all my friends in the business. Whether it was Tolos, Bastien, Firpo, Louie Martinez, Eddie Graham, the Briscos, Ladd, Karl Kox, Gary Hart, Shire and Stevens, or Buddy Rogers. I gave my heart and body to this business, and I thank everyone who remembers me. I have many great memories, and wait'll you see this book!

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Mike Lano is currently publishing his own newsletter, Wrestling Reality. This is the hottest new sheet out there with the best scoops and an exciting staff (including yours truly!). Check out the address for Dr. Mike on page 4 and write for info and rates. If you've enjoyed Mike's work here in WT&N, you'll love Wrestling Reality! Mike is a true friend of wrestling and deserves your support! Also, Mike submitted the following brief Johnny Valentine interview at an earlier date than the one you just read, so I'm running it as a companion piece.-E.G.

LANO: Is there any heat between you and Greg?

VALENTINE: No, not at all. I mean back in either Florida and later in the Carolinas, they wanted to bring in Greg as my son. And if you know anything about promoting, you know that for a guy who was 46 at the time, this wasn't going to look good- it's like Jerry Lawler- nothing ages you faster to fans than acknowledging you have a grown son wrestling (EDITOR'S NOTE: FOR MORE ON JOHNNY/GREG SCENARIO SEE WT&N 1993 ANNUAL- E.G.). Then they suggested having him in as my younger brother, so I was glad when he went up with Don Fargo as a Fargo brother instead.

You know, I had only met Greg once before he turned 18. He was the product of a first marriage, and with me on the road, we'd never met. He got it in him that he wanted to wrestle, and called me up and I sent him up to Stu Hart for training. he also had a bunch of kids he was training, and his cellar gym in the basement would make anyone a great wrestler. Then when I got my back hurt in the Carolinas accident, they wanted to finally acknowledge Greg as my son and bring him in, which was finally done- but only after we knew I couldn't wrestle again. A guy I think the world of, John Tolos, took Greg under his wing in '74 in L.A. along with Orton Sr. Tolos put Greg over big for a year, I think because we had a mutual admiration for each other. Tolos could have a bad match with a lousy guy, but with a good worker in there, he could look fantastic. He and I had some great battles in the early 60's and later for Paul Boesch in Houston. I like to think I was the equal in the ring of many of the greats. I think my longtime pal Buddy Rogers and I were pretty equal in the ring. I had to be competitive all the time to get attention, because even though I was in Buddy's clique, and followed him wherever he went, I would always be second banana- he was the ultimate concoction of everything great in the business, and we always knew he would be the top guy. I love and miss him, as I told him right before he lapsed off into that last coma.

LANO: What happened with Mike Lebell jerking you around, and why didn't you make that L.A. main-event against Tolos in '73?

VALENTINE: Well, I'd just returned from Inoki's group in Japan where Johnny Powers and I went dozens of times back then. Even Pat Patterson got in, but Inoki wasn't that impressed with him, so he only went a few times. Powers and I were the top guys there, and I think I got over the best of any territory for Sam Muchnick in St. Louis where I was most proud of my work. Sheik treated me good, but I came back from Japan and did a KCOP tv taping for Mike Lebell, hyping the big America's title match with Tolos for 2 weeks away. Then I was in Houston and I called Lebell, and he backed off on several promised he'd made, so I called booker George Scott and told him I was coming to the Carolinas. Then I heard Lebell said I lost to Gorilla Monsoon in Japan, and they brought him in to do a big job instead. It was funny, though, they were still calling me Cowboy Rocky Valentine in L.A. in '73, because when Buddy Rogers asked me to come out there back in '56, when I got there I found out they'd been calling me that and he put a cowboy hat on me as my new gimmick. After '56, I went back to being Johnny Valentine, and never was a cowboy again, but here was Gene Lebell calling me that on tv to hype the 1973 bout that never occurred. The Carolinas were ripe, and I knew it. All the attendance was at an all time low- but a bunch of us who'd set Houston on fire came in and the Carolinas perked back up to record crowds.*

(Lano's note: Valentine lead a pack of Wahoo, T-Bolt Patterson, John Studd, Mulligan, and others in the revitalization of the Carolinas that set the stage for the Flairs and Steamboats who came later. Prior, the Carolinas were Johnny Weaver, Brute Bernard, Missouri Mauler and Scotts. Valentine would breath new life to revitalize this circuit.).

LETTERS TO WT&N

Thanks for sending WT&N. You know, even though I pretty much know zip about wrestling, I really did enjoy the zine. There's definitely the "human interest" element, and your writers are surprisingly urbane. I haven't seen many wrestling sheets, but I can't imagine that references to John Coltrane are too common in them. That whole Eddie Goldman column about multicuturalism and wrestling was great-- he does sound like a man of "a zillion" interests and Lazarus Doblesky's article about Australian wrestling was absorbing social history and displayed a welcome humor.

MARK R. HARRIS
CHICAGO, IL

Congratulations on passing the 50 issue mark. That's great, and I know many others, besides myself, are very glad that you've taken on the "challenge" of putting out such a fine monthly publication that, for the most part, honors the history of pro wrestling, and those individuals involved in it that so many of us have enjoyed for years. Best wishes for the next 50 issues, and I'm sure they'll all be enjoyed just as much.

DAVID WILLIAMSON
CLEVELAND, TN

Thanks for the back issues. There was one small story, I believe by you, about the incident with Tony Atlas, a bowl of soup, and some teenage kid. This story was hilarious. I woke up my wife because I was laughing so hard. It was worth the $30 alone. WT&N is a tremendous addition to my collection. Keep up the good work.

RICHARD STAFFORD
JACKSONVILLE, FL

Enclosed is a check for your two annuals. I've been reading each of your issues very carefully. And slowly, savoring them. To say that they make fascinating reading would be an understatement. To refer to your publication as a "sheet" or a "zine" is to do it and you a disservice. It is a newspaper, and a damn fine one! Someday it'll be the definitive reference work for wrestling data of all kinds.

Blast from the past department: I remember Backlund doing endless step-ups on a bench in spite of having grossly swollen knees. Just huge fluid filled balloons. Orndorff and Valentine were workout partners- Paul trained just like he wrestles, with that coiled, explosive tensions. Greg followed him around, not too enthusiastic about the whole thing. Rene Goulet having long and animated discourse with a Gay French Maitre D'. Mark Tendler frequently getting pinned under a bench press and being too embarrassed to ask for help.

ROBIN YOUNG
NYC

I love WT&N and like to look back at the 60's 70's era particularly WWWF. I'd like to see more of it in future issues particularly on Bruno, Spyros Arion, Crusher Verdu, Mongols etc. Those were my favorites. The top jobbers I remember from that era were Tomas Marin, Miguel Feliciano, Joe Turco, Lee Wong, Chuck Richards, Vincente Pometti, Mike Conrad, Frank Hickey, Tony Altamore, Manuel Soto. What about doing something on Ray Morgan DC era?

SCOTT DRUYAN
BRONXVILLE, NY

Yo Teach!

I have sent you a couple of interesting wrestling items for your perusal. I have lived here in Florida since dinosaurs roamed the swamp and let me tell you I used to walk six blocks when I was a kid to the old Lake Worth American Legion Arena and see the likes of Lou Thesz vs. Eddie Graham, Great Malenko, Curtis and Lewin, Assassins, Blassie, Orton Sr. and on and on in finitum. Naturally it spoiled me for the rest of my life but it also set the hook deep, deep in my psyche. I am preparing a piece for your sheet to be called "Eddie Graham As John Wayne." Its original title was "Eddie Graham As Jesus Christ," which, although not too far off the mark (especially here in Florida) is a bit disrespectful and anyway the Christ rarely took the fall. Anyway, forewarned is forearmed so be prepared for EGAJC, er, EGAJW.

Evan, I like your sheet. More than that, I am actually inspired by it; inspired to create, to remember, and most of all to place in perspective all of this modern-day bull shit with the way it was way back then. You yearn for the old days, so do a lot of us. Things were simply better, and not just wrestling. But since they do not seem to be returning in spite of my exhortations to the contrary, we shall have to seek solace between the hallowed pages of WT&N.

Once again my complete congratulations on WT&N. The other sheets, even the good ones exhibit little or no human characteristics except business acumen. You, by contrast, continually spill your emotional guts all over WT&N. I think that's cool. I don't care if I ever meet Dave Meltzer, for example, but I bet you'd be a trip to sit down and swap lies with!

RANDY SPOTTS
LAKE WORTH, FL

Enclosed you will find some very good copies of some cards from the 1950's. I correspond with Danno O'Shocker and he provided some of them. Hope you can use them soon in an issue since I know he would be thrilled. There is also an interesting card from Indianapolis in '52 that had "Frenchy" Roy on it. He later worked as one-half of the Corsica Joe and Corsica Jean team down south and was, unfortunately, murdered at his Tampa bar recently.

DOUG CHAMBERS
TORONTO, ONT.

Maybe I sent you a copy of this one before. Can't recall. Anyway, it's Strangler Steve DiSalvo with a grip on two Harts--- referee Wayne and none other than Bruce with a ribbon in his hair. The pencil of course represents Bruce's position in the office. ***(Editor's Note - artwork on cover)***

I was still living in Edmonton when I did this drawing and had worked my last stampede show the previous year. Several copies of the drawing mysteriously materialized at the arena in Edmonton one Saturday night at the matches. I heard Bruce's reaction to this brilliant work of genius was somewhat less than enthusiastic. What fun.

There's more on the way, including a portrait of Dutch Mantell and a work entitled "Dick the Bruiser vs. Plop the Blob."

WAYNE ST. WAYNE
ST. LOUIS, MO